



# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- From the President
- March Program
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Interesting History
- DX Contests

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

What dead president was it who said "The buck stops here."? Indeed it does and yours truly erred on the side of caution by cancelling last month's meeting for what turned out to be good roads. Sorry about that.

Please plan to join us for an important vote at our upcoming meeting. Your officers and directors have met and voted to incorporate NADXC The North Alabama DX Club. To move forward this notice is published here and majority vote is now needed by the membership. Your officers and directors are in unanimous agreement this action is necessary to protect the club assets from risk.

At the meeting we'll also have our inaugural quarterly door prize drawing where some lucky member or spouse or guest will leave with a coveted item.

Are you getting enough exercise? You might want to put in a few extra laps early in the month because it's going to be difficult to leave the radio toward the end of March. Heard Island (#5 on Clublog most-wanted) is slated for March 18 thru April 10 and Juan de Nova (#6) is scheduled to be QRV from March 29 through April 11. And there's lots of other good stuff before that. Ethiopia ET7L now through April 12 and more. I like <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> for keeping up with the latest expeditions and activation dates.

## Timely Dxpedition Video

March Program

This time just the smallest bit of suspense is associated with the program. It's a Dxpedition video of a timely nature—about a place soon to be on the air, but of course recapping past adventures. Enough said—use your imagination, but be there Tuesday for the program. 6:00 pm or so for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for the video. See you there!

CW is hard. Since relearning the code well enough to wade into the DX pileups, my efforts have been hit & miss. Persistence has put VP8 & 3XY1T in the CW log on at least one band each, but it's taking more time & mental effort than phone. I'll keep at it though and learn how to better find that hole in the wall of callers where the DX is listening.

I'm marveling at the real time log uploads of 3XY1T. Work the station and within a few minutes their uploaded log confirms the contact.

Your officers & directors are still in the hunt for a banquet speaker and working to get that wrapped up. Same for the main banquet door prize.

It was President Truman.

73,

Mark N4BCD

North Alabama DX Club - President



## NADXC Board Minutes

By Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### Minutes of North Alabama DX Club Board Meeting

Present:

Mark Brown N4BCD

Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI

Tom Duncan KG4CUY

Jim Spikes N4KH

Kelley Johns W4VPZ

The officers met at 4:45 p.m. on 4 February 2016 at Newk's on University Drive.

The topic of the discussion was the advantages of incorporating (but not filing for 501(C)3) the North Alabama DX Club versus the risks of not doing so. The primary goal of incorporating is to protect the financial assets and the intellectual property of the club. An earmarked donation has been made to the Club to pay for incorporation filing fees. After some detailed discussion around the table, Mark asked each board member for an opinion on incorporating the North Alabama DX Club. The board members agreed unanimously that it would be advantageous to file the paperwork as soon as possible. There were no other club business topics raised at the meeting before the meeting adjourned around 6:00 p.m.

## Treasurer's Report

### North Alabama DX Club Treasurer's Report for February 2016

42 paid members (33 individual, 9 family)

11 have not renewed for 2016

Beginning Balance	\$4,477.58
-------------------	------------

Debits	
--------	--

Repeater Power Bill (2015 & 2016)	
-----------------------------------	--

	\$160.00
--	----------

Credits	
---------	--

Dues Payments Deposited	\$ 365.72
-------------------------	-----------

Earmarked Donation*	\$200.00
---------------------	----------

Ending Balance	\$4,883.30
----------------	------------

\*for Incorporation Fees

## Interesting History

Those of us who are particularly interested in RF circuits will be most familiar with Barrie Gilbert as the name associated with the Gilbert cell active mixer, the front-end of countless personal communications devices, not to mention QRP receivers. Barrie's history in electronics can be traced back to England where he worked for Mullard. If you're willing to spend the time, a rather lengthy history may be found at

[sscs.ieee.org/images/files/\\_newsletter\\_archive/\\_sscs\\_newsletter\\_200710.pdf](http://sscs.ieee.org/images/files/_newsletter_archive/_sscs_newsletter_200710.pdf)

followed by an article also by Gilbert about a close relative of the mixer, the four-quadrant multiplier.

By the way, web searches on Barrie Gilbert will produce countless hits on a different person of the same name who was mauled by a bear in Utah some years ago. Also interesting, but even more tenuously related to ham radio.

## NADXC Officers and Directors

President **Mark Brown, N4BCD**

Vice President **Jim Spikes, N4KH**

Secretary/ **Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ**

Treasurer

At-large **Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI**

directors **Tom Duncan, KG4CUY**

## DX Contests for March

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### ARRL International DX Contest, SSB (PH), 160 – 10 meters

Mar. 5, 0000Z to Mar. 6, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus State/Prov.; DX send RS plus power

See page 83, Mar. QST or  
[www.arrl.org/arrl-dx](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)

### DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest (Dig), 10 Meters

Mar 6, 1100Z to Mar. 6, 1700Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 83, March QST or  
[www.darc.de](http://www.darc.de)

### UBA Spring Contest, CW (CW), 80 Meters

Mar. 6, 0700Z to Mar 6, 1100Z

Exchange: RST, Serial, UBA section (if any)

See page 83, Mar. QST or [uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest](http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest)

### South America 10 Meter Contest (PH/CW), 10 Meters

Mar. 12, 1200Z to Mar. 13, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus CQ zone

See page 83, Mar. QST or  
[sa10m.com.ar/cqsa10m\\_rules.html](http://sa10m.com.ar/cqsa10m_rules.html)

### Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 Meters

Mar. 12, 1500Z to Mar. 13, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

See page 83, Mar. QST or [www.kkn.net/stew/](http://www.kkn.net/stew/)

### Russian DX Contest (PH/CW), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 19, 1200Z to Mar 20, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #; or RS (T) plus Oblast #

See page 83, Mar. QST or  
[www.rdxco.org/aspp/pages/rulesg.asp](http://www.rdxco.org/aspp/pages/rulesg.asp)

### BARTG HF RTTY Contest, (DIG), 80 – 10 Meters

Mar 19, 0200Z to Mar 21, 0200Z

Exchange: RST plus 3-digit S.N. plus 4-digit time.

See page 83, Mar. QST or  
[www.bartg.org.uk](http://www.bartg.org.uk)

### UBA Spring Contest, CW (CW), 80 Meters

Mar. 20, 0700Z to Mar 20, 1100Z

Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if any)

See page 83, Mar. QST or [uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest](http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest)

### CQWW WPX Contest (PH), 160 – 10 meters

Mar 26, 0000Z to Mar 27, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial #.

See page 83, Mar. QST or  
[www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm)



### OTHER

#### SP DX Contest

1500Z, Apr 2 to 1500Z Apr. 3

#### LZ Open 40M Sprint,

0400Z to 0800Z April 2

#### JIDX CW Contest,

0700Z, Apr. 9 to 1300Z Apr. 10

#### OK/OM DX Contest,

1200Z April 9 to 1200Z, April 10

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## The LongPath Staff

### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President